

Anansi, Ghana's World Famous Spider

Ghana exports cultural products in many forms including textiles and wood carvings. But Anansi the spider just might be one of Ghana's most successful cultural exports. Anansi (also spelled Ananse) is the trickster hero of countless Akan folktales. His appeal has spread to Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, and even the Internet.

Anansi's dominant characteristics are his trickery and laziness. In most stories he tries to get something for nothing. Sometimes he succeeds, and sometimes he is punished for his behavior. In some stories, Anansi is a spider, but he can also take a human form. Even in his human form, he is associated with his tricky qualities. Many of the stories have elements of magic and fantastic turns of events.

Sylvia Gardner of B&F offered a story in which Anasi fakes his own death. Anansi heard that there was going to be a famine. He instructed his family to bury him on their farm if he died, and he prepared his own coffin. He then pretended he was dead. His family dutifully buried him in the coffin on the farm. Little did they know that Anansi had rigged his coffin so that he could escape. Following Anansi's "death," the family worked hard on the farm every day. Every night Anansi slipped out If you have news, classified, of the coffin and helped himself to the food his family had grown. His family noticed that food was going missing. So one day they set a trap of sticky glue. Sure enough, Anansi got stuck in the glue, and the next morning his family discovered his plot.

Driver Bismark Sai tells a variation on that story in which Anansi's family punishes him by expelling him from the village. That is why you always see spiders in their webs outside homes.

March 8, 2007

American Embassy. Accra

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CLO Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8am~12:00pm

suggestions, letters, restaurant reviews etc. for the Okyeame, please write to the Editor. Mikelle Antoine at:

accraokyeame@yahoo.com Deadline Monday 5pm

Please let us know what you would like to see in the Okyeame. Your suggestions, criticism and story ideas are most welcome!

The Okyeame is published weekly by the United States Mission, Accra. It is for the use of all Mission employees and their families. Post activities and items of general interest are included in this newsletter. Please send news items, suggestions and classified ads to accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Submission deadline is COB Monday of publication week. Classified ads may be placed by members of the Mission or members of other foreign missions stationed in Ghana. Ads will be run for three weeks and can be renewed. If an item is sold before the three weeks are up, please notify accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Ads and submissions are accepted based on appropriateness and relevance to the Embassy community. Okyeame is a Twi word meaning linguist, or chief's spokesperson.

In another story, Anansi wants to eat some of his wife's delicious bean stew, but he is supposed to be fasting following his mother-in-law's death. So he hides the stew in his hat and tries to eat it in secret. Of course, his wife enters as he is about to eat. He puts the hat on his head to conceal the stew, but he must keep shaking the hat to cool his head. Anansi tells his wife he must go off to a hat-shaking festival. His wife has never heard of such a festival, and eventually she discovers his scheme. Anansi suffers the ridicule of the village, and the stew singes the hair off his head.

You can find Anansi stories wherever Akan people have settled, such as Jamaica. In those stories, the characters take on distinctively Jamaican characteristics. They speak in patois and in one story, they attend a cricket match. These days Anansi makes appearances in many places. The Canadian children's singer, Raffi, performs a song about Anansi. The American Public Broadcasting System (PBS) uses Anansi as a character on its children's website about Africa. Numerous internet companies have incorporated Anansi into their names because of his association with webs. American bookstores carry dozens of illustrated children's books recounting Anansi stories. Locally, EPP Bookstore carries *Ananse Searches for a Fool and Other Stories* by Jane Osafoa Dankyi. The next time you come across a reference to Anansi the spider, remember that he is an Akan invention!











Narrated Exhibit "The Influence of Pan-Africanism on Ghana's Independence"

2 – 24 March: Exhibit by members of the Foundation for Contempo rary Art

11 March at 2:00 p.m: "Diasporans Answering Nkrumah's Call": Presentations by two Dias pora-initiated projects empowering residents of refugee camps in Ghana

11 March at 4:00 p.m: "Black Flicks": Lumumba:, Death of a Prophet

22 March at 4:00 p.m: "Icons of Pan-Africanism" - Lecture by Prof. N'Dri Assie-Lumumba, Cornell University

25 March at 3:00 p.m. "Black Flicks": Sankofa

All programs held at the W.E.B DuBois Center, Cantonments

Celebrating Ghana@50



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North American Women's Association tact Rodger French: deluxevaude-(NAWA) promotes friendship among North American women, and between North American & Ghanaian women. NAWA fundraises for charitable organizations that support women and children in Ghana. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. between September and May. Join us at 6:45pm at the Coconut Regency Hotel. Look forward to meeting new friends, supporting worthy causes in Ghana and participating in cultural and social activities. The NAWA published book, No More Worries, can be found in stores throughout Ghana. Check the www.noworriesghana.com website or go to www.nawaghana.com. Call secretary Carol Pietrvk at 0242 108273 (email: jcpietryk@yahoo.ca) or president Monica Carr at 0243 680799 for further information. "You are welcome."

Ghana International Women's Club Formed in 1980 with the intention of establishing a strong bond of friendship among 'women of the world', and fostering a better understanding of one another's cultures. Members organize fundraising events and volunteer work. Monthly meetings every 2nd Wed at Kohinoor Restaurant in Osu at 9:30 am.

Ghana Bead Society Develop knowledge, appreciation, and interest in beads in Ghana, both from a traditional and contemporary point of view. Monthly meetings at the DuBois Center, East Cantonments; 4:30 pm, first Thursday of each month. Contact Trish Graham 764-349 e-mail: o r trish_graham@hotmail.com.

Alliance Française Provides French classes for children and adults, and hosts numerous cultural events. Located on Liberation Link Road, Airport Residential. Tel: 773-134.

American Chamber of Commerce promotes commercial, economic, educational and cultural ties between the U.S. and Ghana. Their regular luncheon meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month at La Palm from 12-2:30. Tel: 247-562, 024-251-605. E-mail: amchamgh@ghana.com; Website: www.amcham_africa.org. Located at Hse #C609/3 5th Crescent St, Asylum Down.

Scottish Country Dancing The Caledonian Society of Ghana: Scottish Country dancing is back. All are welcome to join in at the Grasscutters club, every Tuesday night from 7.30pm. For more information call 0244 069 169 or e mail caledonianghana@yahoo.co.uk Accragio, a singing group open to expatriates and Ghanaians, is preparing its next program and welcoming all new singers, especially altos and tenors. For more information, please conville@earthlink.net or 024-664-9487.

Energize vourself and reduce stress with Hatha Yoga at YMCA Mon-Wed-Fridav. 5:30 pm - 7 pm. Contact Peace on 024-422-6079 or 775-348 ext. 4277.

The International Players The International Players is a local amateur dramatic group that performs publicly. Anyone interested amateur theater is invited to participate. For information contact: Trish Graham at 764-349 or e-mail: trish_graham@hotmail.com.

Bunko is up and running here in Accra! Fast paced, easy to learn, no skill required, (ladies only!) dice game. We meet monthly at rotating houses. For more info or to sign up, email Kylie at edhrncir@hotmail.com.

Theater Mirrors. A local Ghanaian acting troupe, begun in 1986, whose members perform every Friday night at Bywel Bar, located across the street from Sotrec Grocery in Osu. Admission is free. 8 PM. The acting group is also available for private performances. Call 024-678956 for details.

Ghana National Theatre Monthly Symphony Program "Sunday at Five" held the last Sunday of every month is now at Christ the King Parish Hall due to renovations. Still at 5 pm, still a bargain at 20,000 cedis, 665-735 or 663-467.

Friends of Bill W. Meet Monday evenings 7-8 pm near the Cathedral in Adabraka, Contact Ludwin 020-2018540 or Lvdia 024-611385.

Happy Hour Fridays at 5:30 pm an informal group meets for unwinding at the Labone Coffee Shop. All are welcome.

Hash House Harriers (Accra) The Hash House Harriers has been described as a 'drinking group with a running problem.' However, nondrinkers and walkers are welcome. The Hash runs every Monday, with a 5:15 pm sharp departure. Location varies. Contact accrahhh@yahoo.com for details.

Hash House Harriers (Tema) is composed of Ghanaians and expats in and around the Tema area and welcome families with children. Every Thursday at 5:15 April thru October and 5:00 pm November thru March, Contact Frank Davis, at frank.davis@valcotema.com or call 020-201-1525 for information on directions to starting point.

Duplicate Bridge group meets every Tuesday night at 7:30. Any questions please contact Gerry Gray Thibodeau for information or to arrange a partner, 021-775-414. (evenings) Pick-up Basketball Tuesday evenings (6-8 pm) at GIS. Everyone is invited to join the fun. For additional information, please contact Ted (tlawrence@usaid.gov) or Lawrence Rob Clausen (rclausen@usaid.gov). They can also be reached by telephone at 228-440.

Pippa's Health and Fitness Center in Osu runs Tumble Tots on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-11:45 am for 40,000 cedis a day. Toddlers can run around, play, and climb on the gym's tumble equipment and meet other toddlers in the area. Parents or nannies are welcome. Call 22 44 88 for more info.

Mom/Dad & Tots (3 and under) at British High Commission Grasscutters Return. Wednesdays 9:30-11:15 am.

Taekwondo at Pippa's Health and Fitness Center. Adults and kids are welcome. Learn from National Champion Master Stephen Yeboah. Call for registration: 22 44 88.

Frisky's International Film Buff Club views films Tuesdays 7pm. Call lan at 0244 363017 or Katya at 024 329679 for directions or to receive a map by email.

Free Meditation each Wed at 6-7pm. Free pranic healing Wed. 10am-6pm. At the GMCKS Pranic Healing Center, 1st floor, Pyramid House, Ring Road central (Next to Alitalia). Website: www.pranichealing.org Phone: 0275089645 Mythili Raja Mohen

International Spouses Association of Ghana (ISAG) Are you a non-Ghanaian married to a Ghanaian? If yes, then come and meet others in a similar relationship. First Wednesday of every month at 5.30pm at Ghana International School film room. It's fellowship with some serious bits! For more information, contact Judd on 024-476-7063 or Nina on 024-477-8229 or email isag@ighmail.com

The Accra Tema Yacht Club (ATYC) is in Ada on the Volta River. 11/2 hours from Accra. close to Manet Paradis Hotel, Races of catamarans and sail boats are held monthly. ATYC has 3 Lasers available for daily or hourly rental, a small bar and four chalets where members may stay overnight. New members are welcome as are day visitors for which a nominal daily charge is payable. Contact dmcallagy@gmail.com -or-Duncan.macnicol@asc-gh.com

African American Association of Ghana (AAAG). General meetings held every third Saturday of the month. 2-4pm at the W.E.B. Dubois Center in Cantonments. For more info call 021-785438 or sankofaaaag@yahoo.com

Fit & Fun Gymnastics Club for children from 2 years and teenagers. Learn the basics of movement improve flexibility, balance and body awareness. Gymnastics helps them learn self discipline, patience and have more self confidence. Call 024 3515889 for info.

Community News and Events

Celebrating Ghana @ 50 with this latest fashion accessory.

Wear it with PRIDE and STYLE

The tags can either be bought in gold plating or nickel plating.

Specification: 51×29 mm plus 700 mm iron ball chain (gold plating or nickel plating) and weighs 19.5 g

Gold plated tags = £6

Nickel plated tags = £5

For all your orders visit

www.anjaazoo.co.uk http://www.anjaazoo.co.uk/>

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All enquiries to: <u>sales@anjaazoo.co.uk </ym/Compose?</u>
<u>To=sales@anjaazoo.co.uk></u>

Masters Degree Students in Public Health from 3 US universities **need home stay accommodation from June to August** while completing their summer practicum. Please offer your spare bedrooms to these students working on maternal and child health projects! Contact Kerry Bruce – Quality Health Partners kbruce@ghanaqhp.org
Vym/Compose?
To=kbruce@ghanaqhp.org> (024)431
2935 for more details.

Baby Items

-Graco Single Stroller. In good condition and has served us well. Cost: 750,000 cedis.

-Schwinn Double Jogging Stroller. Great condition and absolutely perfect for walking around Ghana with two small children (large tires and plenty of straps to keep them from falling out). Cost 2,500,000 cedis.

-Are you in need of an infant carrier here in Accra? Please call. For inquiries contact Dylan at 0244-311-901.

Ongoing Garage Sale

Check out www.hrncir.net for items from a family leaving Accra. The site is updated weekly and available for immediate purchase unless otherwise noted.

Maid/Cook Looking for Full Time Employment Comfort is a great maid and superb cook. She has over 15 years of experience as a housekeeper and cook, most of that time she worked for US Embassy personnel. She can cook anything from Asian and Middle Eastern meals to traditional American meals. She even bakes bread from scratch (without a bread maker). If interested interviewing Comfort please contact Jehan at jehanjones@yahoo.com

CLASSIFIEDS

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SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Excellent housekeeper and a great cook, Joyce Anku, is looking for job. She is hardworking, trustworthy and has outstanding references. Please call her directly at 0243472026. (2)

Outstanding housekeeper and cook, Rose Dzamboe, will be looking for work as of April 1. She is efficient and always happy to take instruction and learn new things. Contact Joel at 0244-313-523 or jbsandefur@yahoo.com. (1)

House helper **need part time job**. She can work on Saturdays and Sundays or housesit. She is reliable and hard working. Call Mikelle at 0243-019535 for contact info.

Wanted: Cane furniture for use outdoors, dining/kitchen table chair, a chest of drawers for a bedroom and a washing machine. Please call 0246980077 (2)

Part-time gardener and handyman. I highly recommend Albert Bediako, who also can do some carpentry work as well as minor electrical repairs. Call Marilyn, 774-690, or contact Albert on 024-354-3814. (2)

Family in search of extremely loving cat or kitten. This is an excellent opportunity for an animal wishing to embark on a lifetime of world travel, abundant food, plentiful petting and boundless love. In return, we merely ask that the cat tolerate us (or make a decent show of doing so via consenting to frequent petting and cuddling. An occasional purr would be a big plus.) Please phone Laura at 024 433 0373 or email wanderingsalazars@yahoo.com with information on good candidates. (3)



USAID/West Africa is looking for a Ghanaian national to fill the position of **Computer Systems Manager**. Under the supervision of the Regional Executive Officer, the Computer Systems Manager will be responsible for providing day to day management of the Systems Office, including user supervision of equipment, computer systems engineering, systems analysis, programming, installation, testing, evaluation, maintenance of operating systems and application programs and

operation of computer hardware and peripherals.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Oversees the management of the computer systems and related issues for USAID/West Africa and USAID/Ghana, both located in Accra, as well as two client missions in West Africa:

Serves as principal supervisor of day to day computer operations for the mission's computer systems ensuring maximum network and server performance.

Performs LAN administration functions, overseeing the network configuration and security on all missions' windows 2000/2003 servers.

Designs develops and implements Mission Information Technology Security plan including computer systems disaster recovery procedures which minimize loss of data and/or systems, and ensure quick recovery from such disasters by implementing workable contingent system operation plan(s).

Develops long-range strategic office automation plans for the missions, establishes and implements Automated Data Processing (ADP) policies and goals; identifying and evaluating hardware, software and peripheral capabilities to meet these goals.

Ensures optimum operation of the VSAT telecommunications link with AID/Washington for World Wide Web (WWW and Voice on VSAT applications) and the dedicated link between main office and Mission's warehouse.

(You may request for the full job description from the HR Office or from smanager@usaid.gov)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: EDUCATION: - BSc in Computer Sciences, Information Systems Management or its equivalent.; A Masters degree in the field of information systems management or equivalent is desirable. EXPERIENCE: At least five years of progressively responsible experience in networking, systems administration and user support, including at least one year's experience supervising other computer professionals. (Two years additional years of experience working in an assistant position in a large organization will be accepted in lieu of full supervision requirement.)

SKILLS AND ABILITIES: MS Exchange 2000/2003 and Ms SQL database administration; thorough knowledge of switches, routers, VSAT, VOIP, firewall, VPN and other communication equipment; substantial experience in the design, installation and administration of computer networks and application of computer based systems for analytical and administrative purposes; as well as good knowledge in web page design and development. Must be fluent in English. ANNUAL SALARY RANGE: \$ 129,590,000 to \$168,748,500

HOW TO APPLY:

Persons interested in applying should submit cover letter and resume with salary history to: The Systems Manager Position; USAID/West Africa P. O. Box 1630, Accra <u>CLOSING</u>

<u>DATE:</u> MARCH 9, 2007

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MISCELLAENOUS

Part-time gardener and handyman. I highly recommend Albert Bediako, whol aso can do some carpentry work as well as minor electrical repairs.

Call Marilyn, 774-690 or contact Albert on 024-354-3814

Mercy was my maid and housekeeper since September and have been impressed by her initiative and skills. She is excellent with children and pets and can housesit. Please call me, Marilyn Martz, on 774-690, or contact Mercy herself on 027-708-0803.

French-speaking nanny from Togo, former teacher with years of experience and mother of two, available for work. Call 0207396382. Would prefer to livein. (1)

Outstanding housekeeper and cook, Rose Dzamboe, will be looking for work as of April 1. She is an extremely efficient self-starter who needs little if any direction, but is always happy to take instruction and learn new things. Contact Joel at 0244-313-523 or jbsandefur@yahoo.com. (1)

LifeFitness Equipment For Sale Would you like to own your very own Treadmill or cross trainer? LifeFitness Treadmills and Cross-trainers have arrived at Pippa's Health Centre Ltd. We offer delivery, insatllation, warranties and full technical support. For more details call 224488.(3)

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1997 Chevrolet Blazer 4x4. Mileage 102, 000 km. comfort: ac, power steering, powered windows, mirrors and driver seats. High quality stereo. Security: air bag, ABS aspect: looks nice, alloy wheel engine 4.3 L, petrol, V6(265 horsepower). Transmission: Automatic. Price: \$11,900. 0244-352 6005 (3)

Bennett Nyator, tel: 024 383 5294, is seeking employment as a **gardener**. Has worked for the past three years for the Management Counselor. References available. (3)

2002 Dodge Grand Caravan FWD Sport Mini ASKING PRICE \$18,000 CD & Cassette player; Equipment 3.3 Liter V6 12 Valve 180hp@5200rpm, AC 4 Wheel Power Anti-Lock Brakes 5 Passenger Seating Capacity Dual Sliding Side Doors. Wheelbase: 119.3 inches. Power Rack And Pinion Steering. Curb Weight: 4093 lbs. Power Door Locks. Width: 78.6 inches. Power Windows w/Driver Side. Original Factory Price \$24,275 Contact Information 024-4327424 (3)

FOR RENT:

Beach House/Chalet at PRAM PRAM beachfront. 1 Bedroom, lounge, kitchenette, shower/WC, large patio, garden, water. Call Ricky at 0244-310066. (1)

Humorous Quote—"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." -- Irvin S. Cobb **2005 Hyundai Accent**, petrol engine, A/C, only 6,400 km, duties NOT paid and has to be sold tax exempted. Asking price \$ 8,750; available end of February. Call Inga at 0243-317556 (inga.zacher@ded.de). (1)

For sale 1990 Honda Prelude. Sports car. AC, powered windows, ABS aspect, 16 valve, 2.0 L, excellent condition, fuel injection, unleaded gas, standard transmission. 230,282 Kilometers. Asking \$6,500. Call Eko at 027-673-6877 (1)

2003 Nissan Murano SE 37,000 miles. All Wheel Drive; 3.5 ltr. 6 cyl; Automatic Transmission; Leather seats; power seats and windows; A/C; ABS. \$25,000 or best offer. Duty not paid. 0244-313-523 or e-mail jbsandefur@yahoo.com. (2)

FOR SALE: 2 cd ROMs and 1 cd writer for \$50 for Rachel FOR FREE to a good home Indoor cat, neutered, $1\frac{1}{2}$ years old, male named Saffron Shy at first but warms up and is very loving once she gets to know you, no vices If interested call: 0244-311-499 Or: 763-709 (3)

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WANTED

HOUSING. Urgent. Diplomats looking for a safe and quite accommodation in Airport Res., Cantonment, East Legon or Osu with a swimming pool. No agent please. Tel: 0242 266 713 (3)

Housing Needed: Seeking new house, 3 bedroom for rent. Pref in East Legon, Osu, Labone, Cantonments, gated community or best alternative. Call Mikelle at 0243 019535 (3)

HIRING / DRIVER. Urgent. Wish to hire an experienced driver for 1-4 hours / week. Taxi driver OK. Call 0242 266 713 (3)

HIRING / HOUSE MAID. Urgent. Wish to hire a house maid who can cook Chinese, Korean or Japanese food. Please call 0242 266 713 (3)

POSITION WANTED / HOUSE MAID.

Experienced house maid who can cook is looking for a full time or part time position in a house with a place to stay. Please call Cecile 0242 266 713. (3)

For Sale: DVD box set: Season 1 of the TV series "24." Brand new. \$45 or best offer. Trading possible. Contact Claudia at (021)-77-33-17 or (024)-4-313-520. (1)

HOUSING NEEDED: I am looking for a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment but would also consider a guest house. I will also house sit. Contact Wade, a Peace Corps volunteer at 0243 525 989. (3)

WANTED: Used sewing machine. Email, jackjack-fields@gmail.com233) 024-658-4537 (mobile) (1)

VEHICLES FOR SALE

Golf 3 1992 model Black Radio & CD player,manual Tinted windows and sporty looking. Mileage 265 000km Price: 53 million or US \$ equivalent (negotiable) To view call please call 0244 936 783 after 4pm Mon - Thursday, Friday after 2pm and weekend anytime during the day. (3)

For Sale: Toyota Camry 1999, 4 door sedan, automatic, 74,900 miles Excellent condition US\$9,000 or best offer Sedan, one owner, very well maintained, imported duty free Straw Sofa set large sofa, love seat, two side chairs, and table dark blue cushions \$160 for entire set 2 Straw/bamboo table and chair sets glass top table with four

chairs per set \$130 per set **Large collection of plants all sizes** - will sell for the cost of the Clay pots that they are in

Tamashi Split Air Conditioner 2.5HP purchased in March 2005 for US\$725. Will sell for \$400. Infrequently used.

Double bed box spring and mattress \$150 or best offer

DSTV Box and Satellite Dish \$150 Contact Dorothy Rozga, UNICEF 244 331 500 (3)

Wanted: Nissan Terrano or similar size of 4x4 car. Duty paid. Please contact Phil Marshall in Takoradi on 0244 509 445 or 031 30061 (home) or 031 25322 (office) (3)

Windsurfer Wanted: Second hand. Please contact Phil Marshall in Takoradi on 0244 509 445 or 031 30061 (home) or 031 25322 (office) (3)

SALE of FRENCH MATERIAL (books, videos, DVDs) will be held on Friday 23rd of February from 9-13 pm. If you have any bring them along, we can make some "trade" to ! Tel: 0242 266

713 (3)

FOR SALE: Leaving post. Available mid- to late March. 29" Multi-System Sanyo Color TV. 110/220v. \$400; 20" U.S. TV. Will work with AFN. 110v. \$100; Klipsch IFI IPod Speaker System. 110v. \$200; Kenwood surround sound tuner and speakers. 110v. \$150: Large Pine TV Entertainment Cen-\$700; Stainless steel ter/Armoire. coffee table. \$50; Ikea rocking chair and ottoman. \$50; Ikea butcher block table. \$150 Call 0244-313-523 or email jbsandefur@yahoo.com. (2)

1996 Honda Prelude. Sports car. AC, powered windows, ABS aspect, 16 valve, 2.0 L, excellent condition, fuel injection, unleaded gas, standard transmission. 230,282 Kilometers. Asking \$6,500. Please call Eko at 027-673-6877 or at 024-658-8617. (2)

Experienced, capable and conscientious housekeeper, Esther Ansah has worked for USAID staff and other American expats for the past 8 years. She is highly recommended, for whom she has worked for the past two years. Esther is an excellent cook, keeps everything spotless, and is always warm and cheerful. She is smart, honest and hard working. She will be available after March 10. Please call: 233-243439064 or 233-207460565, or contact Lorie Broomhall at Ilbroomhall@yahoo.com.